



WHITESTOWN'S BICENTENNIAL TORCHBEARER INSPIRES DESPITE TRAGEDY

Jennifer Trapuzzano Helps Other Families Cope with Loss

For Immediate Release:

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WHITESTOWN, Ind. – When the Indiana Bicentennial Torch passes through Indiana's fastest-growing community on October 13th, it will be carried by a Whitestown resident who know first-hand what it means to keep moving forward through adversity. We invite our residents to gather along the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay route to not only help us celebrate Indiana's 200th birthday, but also to show support for our Whitestown torchbearer Jennifer Trapuzzano.

Jennifer was pregnant when her husband, Nathan Trapuzanno, was mugged and shot to death while on his morning walk on the west side of Indianapolis in 2014. Their beautiful daughter, Cecilia, never got to meet her father. She was born three weeks after his murder.

Through her deep grief, Jennifer has worked to start a foundation to help children who have lost a parent. She and Nate's siblings formed The Nathan Trapuzanno Memorial Foundation, which provides financial support to children whose mother or father has passed away. The foundation holds an annual charity 5K run/walk, silent auction and spaghetti dinner each year around Nate's birthday, May 17th. Since the foundation was formed, they have been able to award more than a half dozen families with financial aid to help alleviate some of the burden that is placed on them when a parent passes away. Jennifer also maintains a website and blog at www.alovesostrong.org and is an accomplished speaker, sharing her story to inspire others to find hope, strength and joy in the midst of tragedy.

"Every day since I lost Nathan, I have put one foot in front of the other to not only survive, but to find a way to turn this tragedy into something good." Said Jennifer, "I am incredibly humbled that I get to continue walking my journey, now as a Torchbearer for our county."

The Town of Whitestown is encouraging its residents to line the streets along the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay route to show their support for Jennifer and the other torchbearers. Residents are asked to come out of their homes or businesses between approximately 1pm to 1:30pm on Thursday, October 13th and gather along both Main Street and Whitestown Parkway as the Bicentennial Torch passes by. Parking is available at trailhead of the Big 4 Trail at 104 S. Main Street in Whitestown's historic Legacy Core and at the Whitestown Municipal Complex at 6210 Veterans Drive.

"We are extremely proud to have a Whitestown resident representing Whitestown, Boone County and Indiana in this historic event." Said Whitestown Assistant Town Manager Tanya Sumner. "Jennifer has been a beacon of strength, forgiveness and inspiration in the wake of

tragedy. Her mission to honor her late-husband's memory by helping children who have lost a parent is beyond admirable." Said Sumner.

More than 4,000 torchbearer nominations were received. Those selected are Hoosiers who demonstrate exceptional public service, acts of heroism or excellence in volunteer service.

Students from Zionsville Community Schools, Lebanon Community Schools and Traders Point Christian Schools will take part in Whitestown's celebration. About 70 4th graders from Perry Worth Elementary, who are currently studying Indiana history, will gather in our historic Legacy Core district. About 500 students and staff at Boone Meadow Elementary will gather along Main Street in front of their school, including 4th grade Indiana History Studies students. TPCS and Zionsville West Middle School students will gather at the Whitestown Municipal Complex. The students will wave bicentennial flags and make signs to hold up as the torch passes to commemorate Indiana's 200th birthday and the Bicentennial Torch Run.

WHAT: Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay through Whitestown

WHEN: Thursday, October 13th 1-1:30pm

WHERE: Along Main St. & Whitestown Pkwy (parking at 104 S. Main St & 6210 Veterans Dr.)

WHY: To celebrate Indiana's 200th birthday and Whitestown Torchbearer Jennifer Trapuzzano

Media Contact:

Tanya Sumner

Assistant Town Manager/Director of Public Relations

Town of Whitestown

6210 Veterans Drive

Whitestown, IN 46075

o: (317) 732-4536

c: (317) 914-7707

www.whitestown.in.gov

tsumner@whitestown.in.gov

